been in touch with several advertising agencies including HTA for the promotion of Immunization activities According to available information HTA is a fully Indian Company owned by its employees.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have not gone into the question of other products promoted by the particular advertising company.

**Presence of Bacteria in Chilka Lake**

3098. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a recent study conducted in the Chilka lake by certain Professors of the Chemistry Department of the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, has shown the presence of clusters of bacteria in the lake water posing serious threat to the Indian naval vessels at the training centre ; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to check the acceleration in the biological corrosion in Chilka lake water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) and (b) The presence of micro-organisms is a normal feature in tropical waters, against which protective measures are taken. The Ravenshaw College have not forwarded the results of its study to the Navy.

**Smuggling of electronic goods from Sri Lanka by Defence personnel**

3099. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Defence inquiries were held sometime back by 54 Infantary Division of Kankesanthurai and the other by IAF authorities at Tambaram into the alleged smuggling of electronic goods from Sri Lanka by the Defence Personnel ; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the ranks of the officers involved in the smuggling of electronic goods from Sri Lanka and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) and (b) Enquiries against certain Army and Air Force officers, upto the rank of Major and Wing Commander respectively, were initiated. The enquiries have been completed against the majority of the offenders and appropriate disciplinary action has been taken against them.

**Procurement of the book entitled "Defenders of Pakistan"**

3100. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new Pakistani publications about the country's armed forces—"defenders of Pakistan" and another on the official history of Pakistan's Air Force revealing new defence data ; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTA MANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) and (b) Government have seen the books "Defenders of Pakistan" and "The History of Pakistan Air Force"

Both the books contain false and distorted versions of history and Government do not endorse the contents thereof.

**Central assistance for leprosy eradication programme**

3101. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the extent of Central assistance in kind and cash for the leprosy eradication programme in the country during 1987-88 and what is the percentage of rise in the Central assistance as compared to the assistance given during 1985-86 and 1986-87 ;

(b) what is the percentage of rise/fall in the incidence of leprosy during 1988 as compared to the previous year 1987 ;

(c) what is the percentage of utilisation of the Central assistance by the State Governments during 1988 for leprosy eradication programme stating the names of the States which have not utilised the Central assistance in full and the reasons therefor ; and

(d) what percentage of the cured leprosy patients have been rehabilitated against the target, if any, at the end of 1988 stating the names of the States which are lagging behind and the steps contemplated by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (d) The following Central Assistance has been released to the States/Union Territories during the last three years :

| Years | Amount released | | | %Rise(+) %Fall(—) over previous year |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cash | Kind | Total (Rs. in lakhs) | |
| 1985-86 . . . . . | 764.14 | 467.58 | 1231.72 | .. |
| 1986-87 . . . . . | 773.18 | 435.00 | 1208.18 | (—)1.91 |
| 1987-88 . . . . . | 1097.50 | 372.50 | 1470.00 | (+)21.67 |

The prevalence rate of leprosy was 0.58% in 1961, 0.58% in 1971 and 0 57% in 1981. Prevalance rates are not available on annual basis. There is a slight increase in the number of cases detected in 1988 as compared to 1987. This is due to the increased programme activities, extension of MDT to new academic districts and creation of additional leprosy staff. Year-wise case detection for last three years is given as under :—

| | |
|---|---|
| 1985-86 . . . | 4,77,152 |
| 1986-87 . . . | 5,07,958 |
| 1987-88 . . . | 5,19,434 |

The number of cured leprosy patients is increasing every year and, during 1987-88, the discharge rate was 10% more than the new cases detected.

The funds released as Central Assistance by Govt. to the State Governments and Union Territory Administration for the Leprosy Eradication Programme during the year 1987-88 have been fully utilised.

75 Reconstructive surgery Units and 13 Leprosy Rehabilitation Promotion Units are providing rehabilitation services to the cured lep-